

STONES RIVER CEDAR GLADE AND BARRENS CLASS II NATURAL-SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA

COUNTY: Rutherford

7.5' QUADRANGLE: Walterhill

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:

Central Basin

ACREAGE: 185

OWNERSHIP: National Park Service

YEAR DESIGNATED: 2003

DESCRIPTION: The Stones River Cedar Glade and Barrens is a 185-acre natural area within Stones River National Battlefield in Rutherford County. It is located in the Central Basin of Middle Tennessee in Murfreesboro. Stones River National Battlefield was an important Civil War battlefield and a Union Army earthworks fortification. In the course of protecting this area for its historical importance, the National Park Service has also recognized the importance of the unique cedar glade ecosystem found here. It is an important site for the recovery of two federally endangered plant species, Pyne's ground plum (*Astragalus bibullatus*) and Tennessee purple coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*). The Tennessee coneflower is especially robust with two colonies totaling more than 2,500 plants. The Pyne's ground plum was introduced in the winter of 2001 from seeds grown at the Missouri Botanical Garden collected from Rutherford County populations. The introduction of endangered species into suitable habitat from nearby populations is a recovery strategy to aid in the long-term sustainability of these imperiled species.

The majority of Stones River State Natural Area is an open expanse of limestone outcropping and very shallow soils. Glade endemic species that occur here include limestone fame-flower (*Talinum calcaricum*), glade-crest (*Leavenworthia exigua*), evolvulus (*Evolvulus nuttallianus*), Eggleston's violet (*Viola egglestoni*), and Nashville mustard (*Leavenworthia stylosa*). There is a small barrens area where soils deepen and support more perennial species including the grasses little bluestem, split bluestem, and side oats gramma.

The National Park Service at Stones River provides exemplary resource management techniques in protecting the cedar glades and their cultural resources. This includes aggressive invasive plant management and also the use of native grasses and local genotypes in managing and preserving the historical earthwork structures outside the natural area.

SITE MANAGEMENT: National Park Service, Stones River National Battlefield, 3501 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 (615) 893-9501; Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447 (615) 532-0431.

PUBLIC ACCESS: The National Park Service operates a visitor center and provides trails and interpretive exhibits in the battlefield and natural area including boardwalks that traverse the earthworks.

DIRECTIONS: Stones River State Natural Area is located near the Stones River National Battlefield visitor center on Old Nashville Pike approximately 3 miles northwest of Murfreesboro.